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The President's Daily Brief

October 29, 1975

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~~*Top Secret*~~ 25X1

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TURKEY

The draft document, presented by Turkish representatives at the negotiations for a revised US-Turkish defense cooperation agreement, has been characterized by our embassy in Ankara as "uniquely and unacceptably one-sided."

Reflecting the anticipated obdurate Turkish position, the Turkish negotiator:

--Expressed again Ankara's contention that the US Congress had wrongly linked the Cyprus situation to the arms embargo.

--Warned that the new agreement must be designed to prevent another arms embargo.

--Suggested that the US might want to consider streamlining its operations in Turkey because, under the new agreement, Ankara would expect compensation of $1.5 billion annually if the US retained use of all the facilities it operated prior to the suspension of activities in July.

Turkey's negotiator struck a more positive note by confirming earlier indications that the US request for a partial resumption of operations at the bases had been referred to the government. Turkish officials had previously insisted that no activities would be allowed to resume until at least the essentials of a new accord had been agreed upon.

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PORTUGAL

The government has taken further steps to assert its authority following Prime Minister Azevedo's successful trip to Porto last weekend.

The first crackdown by the military on Communist-backed seizures of privately owned farms occurred north of Lisbon on Monday, when a cavalry unit arrested ten farm workers' union squatters. The action by the military is significant in light of the Communist-inspired seizure of over 500,000 acres of prime farmland in southern Portugal since summer. Because much of the expropriated land lies fallow and large numbers of livestock have been slaughtered, the takeovers could cause serious agricultural shortages by next year.

Left-wing demonstrators were ousted on Monday from the civil governor's offices in Faro, in the southern Algarve resort area. The leftists had occupied the offices to protest the recent removal of the pro-Communist governor. Soldiers rushed to the scene, after a combined assault on the offices by the Socialists and Popular Democrats resulted in a brawl.

The Portuguese army, and particularly Chief of Staff Fabiao, has come in for harsh criticism because of lax discipline and failure to ensure public order. An army spokesman said Monday that 18 percent of the army will be demobilized while Fabiao is away this week on a visit to West Germany. The cutback will add to the country's unemployment problem, already estimated to be ten percent of the work force. It also will give military authorities an opportunity to remove troublemakers from the armed forces.

The approaching end of the government-sponsored airlift of Angolan refugees could spell additional problems for the government this week. Nearly 200,000 returnees will have reached Portugal by Friday. These increasingly embittered and frustrated refugees have refrained from taking direct political action, reportedly for fear of reprisals

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against friends and relatives still in Angola. Last weekend, however, a group believed to be associated with the refugees claimed responsibility for a bomb attack on a left-wing cultural center. The group, which blamed the government refugee agency for the plight of the returnees, said it had decided to "answer force with force and violence with violence." Another refugee group sent a delegation to our embassy last week to ask for arms, money, and organizational support.

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LEBANON

Prime Minister Karami yesterday announced the formation of a ten-member "security committee" to implement the cease-fire called last Sunday. Karami said that the group, which includes the country's major political leaders, will meet continuously in his office until the fighting stops.

Prospects for the committee's success are poor. Most members have been unable to reach the Prime Minister's office because of continued fighting, and one, Socialist leader Kamal Jumblatt, has said he will not participate. According to press reports from Beirut, Jumblatt dismissed the new committee as an outdated attempt at "tribal reconciliation," and insisted that Lebanon's problems must be solved through fundamental reforms initiated by the 20-member national dialogue committee.

In addition, an aide to Phalangist leader Jumayyil was killed yesterday in the continuing fighting around the parliament building. His death will lead to Phalangist calls for revenge against the far left, and will reinforce Jumayyil's extreme reluctance to make political concessions.

The fighting in Beirut's commercial area was heavy throughout the day yesterday and remained so early today. The Phalangist militia seems to be on the defensive and is withdrawing from the luxury hotel district it had seized over the weekend. The Christian seizure was opposed initially by Lebanese Nasirists and radical Palestinians, but by yesterday morning some units of the major fedayeen groups--Fatah and Saiqa--were also involved.

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[redacted] 25X1
[redacted] 25X1
[redacted] Syrian army troops with tanks and armored personnel carriers are assembling on the Syrian-Lebanese border in the north. A show of force would be designed to impress on the Lebanese that Damascus is serious about restoring order. [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] 25X1
[redacted] Damascus did take such action [redacted] during the last major Lebanese crisis in the spring of 1973. 25X1

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SPANISH SAHARA

Moroccan Foreign Minister Laraki, accompanied this time by his Mauritanian counterpart, returned to Madrid yesterday for another round of talks on Spanish Sahara.

The quickening pace of diplomatic contacts and the inclusion of Mauritania, which is aligned with Morocco on the Spanish Sahara dispute, suggest that negotiations with Spain are making progress. An understanding may be near that would partition Spanish Sahara between Morocco and Mauritania and grant Madrid military bases and various economic concessions.

The three countries have reason to settle the Sahara dispute quickly. Morocco and Mauritania would like a negotiated fait accompli in hopes of heading off a UN debate this fall on self-determination for the disputed territory. Spain would like to settle the issue before Juan Carlos assumes power in order to spare his new government an additional burden. The three governments may seek a UN Security Council resolution endorsing whatever arrangements they are able to work out.

Algeria, which opposes a turnover of the territory to Morocco and Mauritania, remains the chief stumbling block to an early resolution of the dispute. According to an Algiers radio broadcast, Foreign Minister Bouteflika, who is still at the UN, sent a message to Secretary General Waldheim last weekend endorsing his consultative mission to Morocco, Mauritania, Algeria, and Spain, which ended yesterday.

Bouteflika made clear, however, that Waldheim should confine himself to seeking a reduction of tensions in the area, and that the adoption of appropriate measures for decolonization should be left to the General Assembly. He added that these measures must be in accord with the recent report by a UN fact-finding group and an advisory opinion by the International Court of Justice, which had the effect of weakening Morocco's claim to the territory.

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NOTES

The Israelis *say seven fedayeen infiltrators with sabotage equipment crossed the UN buffer zone from* Syria *early yesterday; two were killed and five captured.*

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The Israelis *appear to be resigned to a limited US military aid program for* Egypt, *despite predictable public warnings that such aid will have an unsettling effect on the Middle East.*

The Israeli government press office distributed an interview with Foreign Minister Allon the day President Sadat arrived in Washington in which Allon cautioned that any "new scheme of rearmament" in the Middle East could only lead to a new arms race there. Israeli press commentators, however, admit that Sadat cannot come home empty-handed and anticipate that the US will give him "non-lethal" equipment, such as vehicles, radars, and other electronic gear. Nevertheless, they are worried that Sadat may be able to extract assurances that Washington will favorably consider Egyptian requests for such items as US fighter aircraft, tanks, missiles, or armored personnel carriers after next year's presidential election.

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The Lao *are taking an increasingly harsh line toward* Thailand *and are refusing to cooperate in reducing tensions along their Mekong border.*

Vientiane last week rejected a Thai proposal for joint Mekong river patrols to assist in preventing clashes along the river. Commenting on the Thai proposal, Radio Pathet Lao asserted that progress on relations could not be made because Bangkok had failed to return former Lao military equipment now in Thailand, allowed Lao non-communist exiles "to carry out activities in Thailand," and helped the US to "create disturbances in Laos." Vientiane's position almost certainly reflects Hanoi's influence. The North Vietnamese have been citing the Thai refusal to return South Vietnamese military equipment as a major stumbling block to improved relations with Bangkok. Progress on Lao-Thai relations probably will have to await resolution of the impasse between Hanoi and Bangkok.

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